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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,058	05/29/2001	William Joseph Beyda	98P7511US01	6313
7590 03/05/2010				
Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 186 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830			EXAMINER PHAN, JOSEPH T	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/867,058

Applicant(s)

BEYDA ET AL.

Examiner

JOSEPH T. PHAN

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 27 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14, 16-20, and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 15 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-884)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12, 17-20 and 27-28 have been considered, allowable subject matter has been indicated.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim 13 allowed.

Claims 15 and 28 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-12, 17-20 and 27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mohler, Patent #5,506,872.

Regarding claim 1, Mohler teaches a multimedia messaging system(9 Fig.1), comprising: a mailbox configured to receive and store one or more messages, a capacity calculator configured to determine the amount of space occupied by said one or more received messages (Fig.1 and col.4 lines 1-19); and a message transmittal unit configured to automatically enable a plurality of notification messages to be generated across multiple user specified media and serially sent to a plurality of

locations including at least one email address(208 Fig.2, col.4 lines 25-43, and col.6 lines 28-31) in response to determining that the amount of space occupied by said one or messages exceeds a predetermined threshold(Fig.1 and col.4 lines 25-43); wherein a notification message is sent to a subsequent one of the plurality of locations if said one of the plurality of notification messages has not been received and responded to by an authorized user at a previous one of the plurality of locations (col.4 lines 40-43 and col.6 lines 28-31).

Regarding claim 2, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to count the number of said one or more messages stored in said mailbox(col.5 lines 48-50; no messages is 0 count and more than 1 count is a few).

Regarding claim 3, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to determine the amount of time said one or more messages occupy(col.4 lines 1-17 and lines 57-67; amount of time of a 100% fill rate is left).

Regarding claim 4, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said mailbox is located in a non-volatile memory device(Fig.1).

Regarding claim 5, Mohler teaches the system of claim 4, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to determine the amount of non-volatile memory consumed by said one or more messages(col.4 lines 1-18).

Regarding claim 6, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to count the number of minutes said one or more messages occupy(col.4 lines 1-18).

Regarding claim 7, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said non-volatile memory device includes a fixed disk drive(Fig.1).

Regarding claim 8, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said non-volatile memory device includes flash memory(Fig.1)

Regarding claim 9, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages include one or more facsimile messages(col.4 lines 36-43).

Regarding claim 10, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages include one or more telephone messages(col.4 lines 36-43).

Regarding claim 11, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages include one or more pager notifications(col.4 lines 36-43).

Regarding claim 12, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages include one or more electronic mail messages(col.4 lines 36-43).

Regarding claim 17, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, further including a user alert profile table to store information as to where said one or more notification messages are to be sent(Fig.1 and col.4 lines 40-48 and col.5 lines 19-30).

Regarding claim 18, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said multimedia messaging system is an electronic mail system(col.4 lines 36-43).

Regarding claim 19, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said multimedia messaging system is a facsimile server(col.4 lines 36-43).

Regarding claim 20, Mohler teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said multimedia messaging system is a voice mail system(col.4 lines 36-43).

Regarding claim 27, Mohler teaches a multimedia messaging system, a method for generating notification messages, comprising:
receiving and storing one or more messages, determining the amount of space occupied by said one or more messages(Fig.1 and col.4 lines 1-43), and
automatically enabling a plurality of notification messages to be generated across multiple user specified media and serially sent to a plurality of locations including at least one email address in response to determining that the amount of space occupied by said one or messages exceeds a predetermined threshold(Fig.1 and col.4 lines 1-43); determining if a user received at least one notification message by awaiting for a response by the user; wherein a notification message is sent to a subsequent one of the plurality of locations if said notification message has not been received by an authorized user at a previous one of the plurality of locations (col.4 lines 40-43 and col.6 lines 28-31).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14 and 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mohler,
Patent #5,506,872.

Regarding claim 14, Mohler teaches a multimedia messaging system, comprising:

a mailbox configured to receive and store one or more messages(Fig.1 and col.4 lines 1-19); a capacity calculator configured to determine the amount of space occupied by said one or more messages(Fig.1 and col.4 lines 1-19); and

a message transmittal unit configured to automatically enable one or more notification messages to be generated in response to said capacity calculator determining that the amount of space occupied by said one or more messages exceeds a predetermined threshold(Fig.2 and col.4 lines 25-43);

wherein said one or more notification messages are sent to a subsequent one of the plurality of locations if said one or more notification messages have not been received at a previous one of the plurality of locations and wherein said one or more notification messages are across multiple user-specified media(col.4 lines 40-43 and col.6 lines 28-31).

Mohler does not expressly state that his notification messages include modifying a telephone dial tone.

However, examiner takes official notice as modifying a telephone dial tone is an old and well-known method to notify the system administrator(Mohler 232 Fig.2) as it would enable the administrator to audibly hear something has changed within his messaging system without physically touching the system(e.g. distinctive ring patents).

Regarding claim 16, Mohler teaches the system of claim 14, wherein said notification messages includes stuttering the telephone dial tone(col.4 lines 20-43; dial tones stutter).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSEPH T. PHAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7544. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-6:30pm EST, off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph T Phan/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614